Executive Directive 6 (2005)

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN HEALTH CARE

Importance of the Issue

Continuously improving the quality and cost effectiveness of health care is one of the most significant public policy questions facing government. Information technology has shown great promise in improving patient outcomes, promoting cost effectiveness, and enhancing patient involvement. A long-range goal of public policy should be an effective health information infrastructure capable of drawing together critical health information from multiple sources and presenting that information to authorized parties in a useable format to support sound decisions about health by providers, consumers, public health officials and researchers, when and where needed. In particular the electronic health record offers significant opportunities for improving the quality of health care and for controlling costs. Developing this infrastructure will require careful planning and the involvement of all stakeholders. Moreover, the adoption of health care performance measurement and improvement incentives could be accelerated if public and private purchasers collaborated on the infrastructure and data elements necessary for evaluating care delivery in all settings

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the *Constitution of Virginia* and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to Chapter 1 of Title 2.2, I hereby create the Governor's Task Force on Information Technology in Health Care.

The Task Force

The working group will initially consist of 15 members appointed by the Governor and serving at his pleasure. Additional members may be appointed by the Governor at his discretion. The Governor shall designate a chair and vice chair of the group. The Secretaries of Health and Human Resources and Technology, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio, nonvoting members of the task force. Staff support will be provided by the Office of the Governor, the

Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Department of Health, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, and the Virginia Information Technologies Agency.

Responsibilities of the Task Force

The task force will be responsible for the following:

1) Fostering collaboration among stakeholders.
2) Promoting development throughout the Commonwealth, in various provider settings, of the electronic health record.
3) Initiating a plan for the development and implementation of a Virginia health information infrastructure, consistent with and complementary to developing national standards, that promote greater adoption of electronic health record information systems among all health care providers (including interoperability standards and mechanisms that allow current systems to share information with patients and other authorized users).
4) Identifying obstacles to the implementation of an effective health information infrastructure, and providing options (both public policy and action as well as private action) for overcoming such obstacles.
5) Recommending additional data collection priorities and systems that are consistent across public and private payers and necessary to advance quality improvement and efficiency.
6) Ensuring that the privacy and security of health information is maintained as required by state and federal law.
7) Developing relevant performance measures and benchmarks; and
8) Making appropriate policy recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

The task force shall also examine other issues as may be appropriate.

Reporting Requirements

The task force shall issue a preliminary report to the Governor and General Assembly by November 1, 2005.

Effective Date of the Executive Directive

This Executive Directive shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until January 14, 2006, unless sooner amended or rescinded by further executive directive.

Given under my hand this 14th day of January 2005.

Mark R. Warner, Governor